

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 OMB-01
TRSE-00 L-03 H-01 SIG-01 /054 R

DRAFTED BY: EUR/NE:NLACHILLES:LP
APPROVED BY: EUR/NE:REWOODS
DOD:GENERAL FISH

-----300652Z 076715 /15/44

O 292031Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE
CSAF IMMEDIATE
OSAF IMMEDIATE
AFSC ANDREWS AFB IMMEDIATE
ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB IMMEDIATE
HQ EUCOM VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 097291

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (FOR ADDRESSEES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, BE, DA, NL, NO

SUBJECT: F-16 RDT&E FUNDING

REF: AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN 2468 DTG 271620Z APR 77

DOD HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CURRENT
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F-16 DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CONGRESS:

1. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REDUCED THE FY 1978
RDT&E AUTHORIZATION REQUEST FOR THE F-16 PROGRAM FROM
\$192.8 MILLION TO \$89.8 MILLION. THIS REDUCTION WILL, IF
SUSTAINED IN THE SENATE, ADVERSELY IMPACT THE F-16 PRO-
GRAM.

2. FYI. AS A WORST POSSIBLE CASE, THIS REDUCTION COULD REQUIRE THAT THE NUMBER OF AIRCRAFT IN THE RDT&E PROGRAM BE REDUCED FROM 8 TO 4 AND THE PRODUCTION PROGRAM BE SLOWED TO REDUCE THE BUILD-UP RATE. SUCH A PRODUCTION SLOW DOWN WOULD ESSENTIALLY DEFINE A NEW F-16 PROGRAM AND RESULT IN DELAYS IN EQUIPPING US FORCES, EPG FORCES AND THIRD COUNTRY FORCES. SUCH A SLOW DOWN WOULD ALSO LIKELY NECESSITATE RENEGOTIATION OF MOST CONTRACTS, THEREBY CAUSING COST INCREASES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. END FYI.

3. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO APPROPRIATE EPG OFFICIALS THAT THE SENATE HAS NOT YET COMPLETED ACTION ON THE FY 1978 AUTHORIZATION BILL. THE SENATE IS CURRENTLY MARKING UP THE BILL, AND WE EXPECT IT TO BE REPORTED OUT ON 16 MAY WITH SENATE FLOOR DEBATE OCCURRING DURING THE WEEK OF 23 MAY. THEREFORE, A SENATE/HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AUTHORIZATION IS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL SOMETIME AFTER 1 JUNE. ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW THE FINAL SENATE POSITION ON THE FY 1978 AUTHORIZATION BILL, WE BELIEVE THAT THE SENATE SUPPORTS THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST OF \$192.8 MILLION FOR THE F-16 PROGRAM AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC THAT THE SENATE/HOUSE CONFERENCE ON THE AUTHORIZATION BILL WILL RESULT IN RESOTRATION OF THE FULL AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION FOR F-16 RDT&E. YOU MAY NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT IF THE FULL HOUSE CUTS PREVAIL, THERE WILL BE AN IMPACT ON THE F-16 PROGRAM.

4. IF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE COMPLETES
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ITS MARKUP OF THE AUTHORIZATION BILL BEFORE THE SIGNING OF THE LOAS ON 2 MAY, AND IF THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE PROVIDES INFORMATION ON THE MARK-UP, WE WILL FORWARD THIS TO YOU IMMEDIATELY. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BUDGET, FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, REPORTS, RESEARCH, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), F-16, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS, JET AIRCRAFT, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE097291
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/NE:NLACHILLES:LP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770238-0396, D770150-1023
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977043/aaaaacdw.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 32278ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2724736
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: F-16 RDT&E FUNDING
TAGS: MILI, BE, DA, NL, NO, US
To: BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/32278ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009